

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 18-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and claims 10-11, 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,710,884 issued to R. Dedrick (Dedrick patent), noting with respect to the independent claims that:

“As per claims 1, 18, Dedrick teaches a method for providing a user with access to selected target objects (i.e. "electronic information", col. 4, lines 25) that are accessible via an electronic storage media, wherein the user is connected via user terminals 12 and communication connections to a target server system 18 which includes the electronic storage media (figure 1), the method comprising the steps of:

automatically generating target profiles (i.e. "content database", col. 4, lines 24-29) for the target objects ("electronic information") stored in the storage media of server 18, each of the target profile [sic] being generated from the content of an associated one of the target objects and their associated characteristics (col. 4, lines 24-26),

automatically generating at least one user target profile interest summary for a user at a user terminal (col. 4, lines 1-4), each of the user profile being generated from target profiles associated with ones of the electronic information accessed by the user (col. 4, lines 39-43; col. 5, lines 52-57),

enabling access to the stored electronic information via the target profiles and user profiles (col. 20, lines 43-58).”

The Examiner further notes that it would have been obvious to provide bidirectional communication connections between the client and server, with the motivation being increased transmission efficiency.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's germane comments and has noted that the Dedrick patent has a filing date of March 29, 1995. Applicant has enclosed herewith a Declaration under 35 U.S.C. 131 with Exhibits A and B attached thereto. These Exhibits represent a disclosure document received by the undersigned from the inventors named in the present application and a first draft of the present patent application that was prepared by the undersigned, respectively. Both of these documents predate the filing date of the cited Dedrick reference and the dates noted on these Exhibits have been redacted. The undersigned believes that this declaration traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-34 and this application is now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant has not earlier submitted this Declaration because the Examiner

has cited the Dedrick reference for the first time in the last Office Action and Applicant has not had an opportunity to address this issue prior to this response. Applicant therefore believes that the filing of the Declaration is timely and should be entered in this application in response to the 16 March 1998 Office Action.

If the Examiner believes that the prosecution of this application can be expedited by a telephone interview, the undersigned is available at the Examiner's convenience. It is believed that no additional fees are due in this matter. However, if additional fees are required the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account 04-1697.

Respectfully submitted,

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